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AREA 88

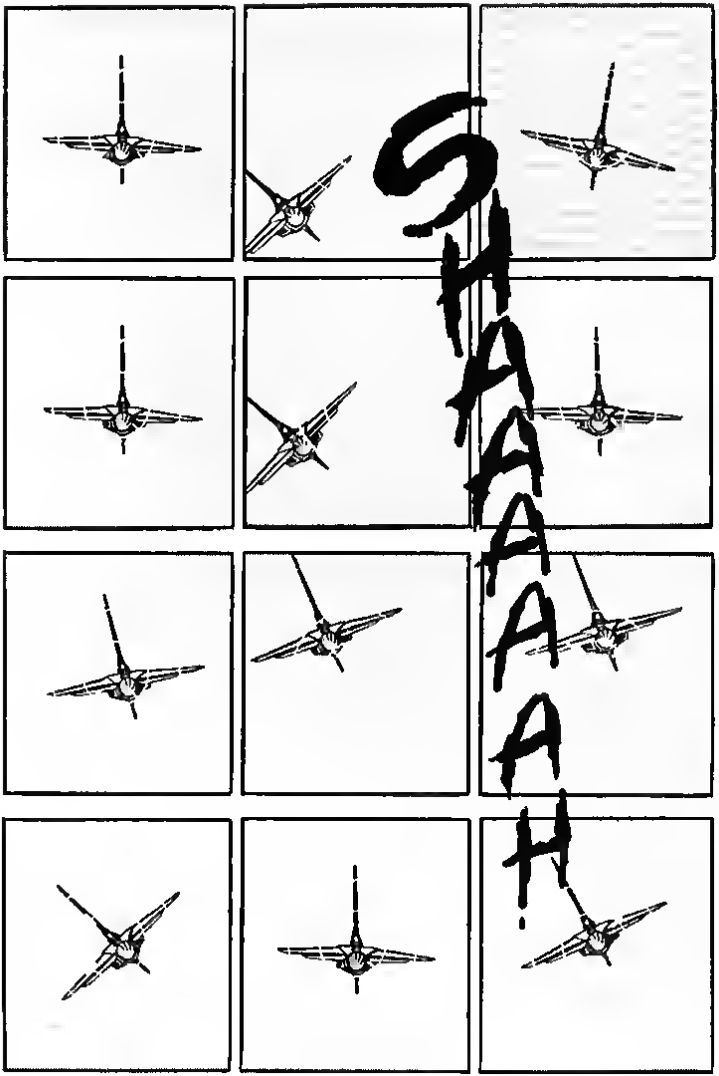
by KAORU SHINTANI

15

BIWEEKLY

The First Sixty Seconds Of Aerial Battle Determine The Winner... And At Area 88, Winning Is Surviving...

VIZ COMICS


SHAAAAH!

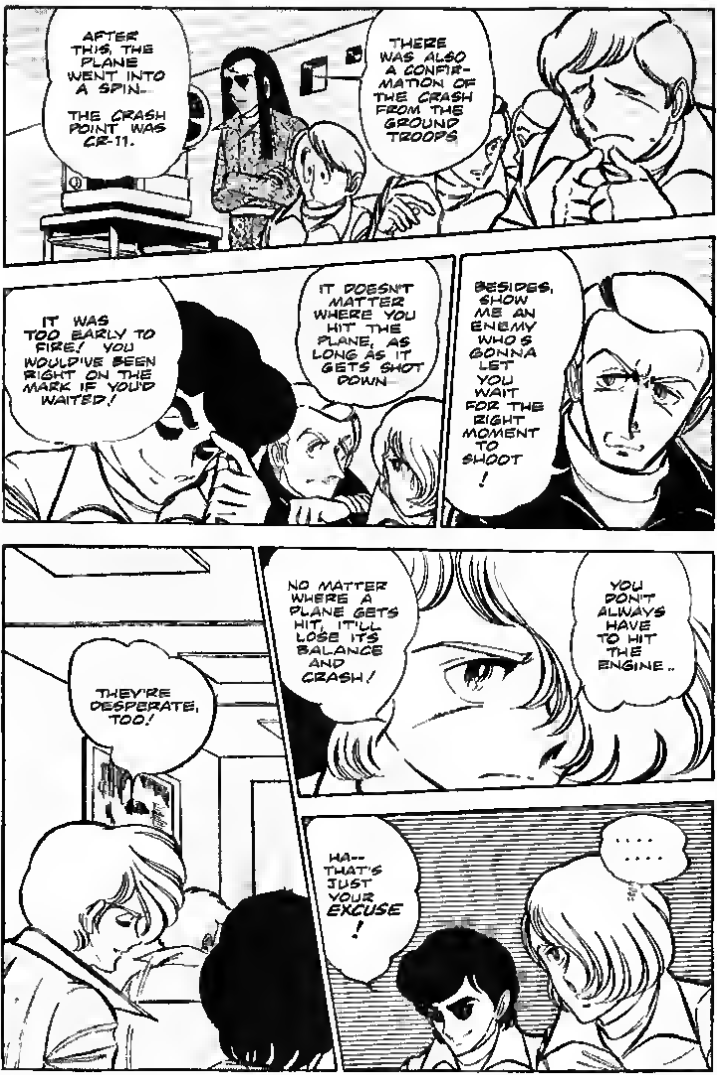
Mission 15:

The Death Loop

SCANNED BY
HIKARU

THAT FILM WAS TAKEN FROM MARIO'S PLANE. HE MADE THE MOST KILLS THIS WEEK.
NOT TOO BAD, ROOKIE!
YOU REALLY ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO HAVE FLOWN GOLO IN THAT AEROBATIC TEAM!
HEH, HEH, HEH...
THE NEXT ONE'S FROM SHIN'S PLANE.
YOU WERE SECOND THIS WEEK, SHIN.
JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU GUYS, RIGHT?!
I TOLD YOU I WAS GONNA BE NUMERO UNO!
.....

STRAFING RUN!
WASN'T IT A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO FIRE..?
WELL..
AHH.. GOT HIM!
YEAH, BUT THOSE AREN'T FATAL HITS. HE ONLY GOT THE WINGS
FLOCK

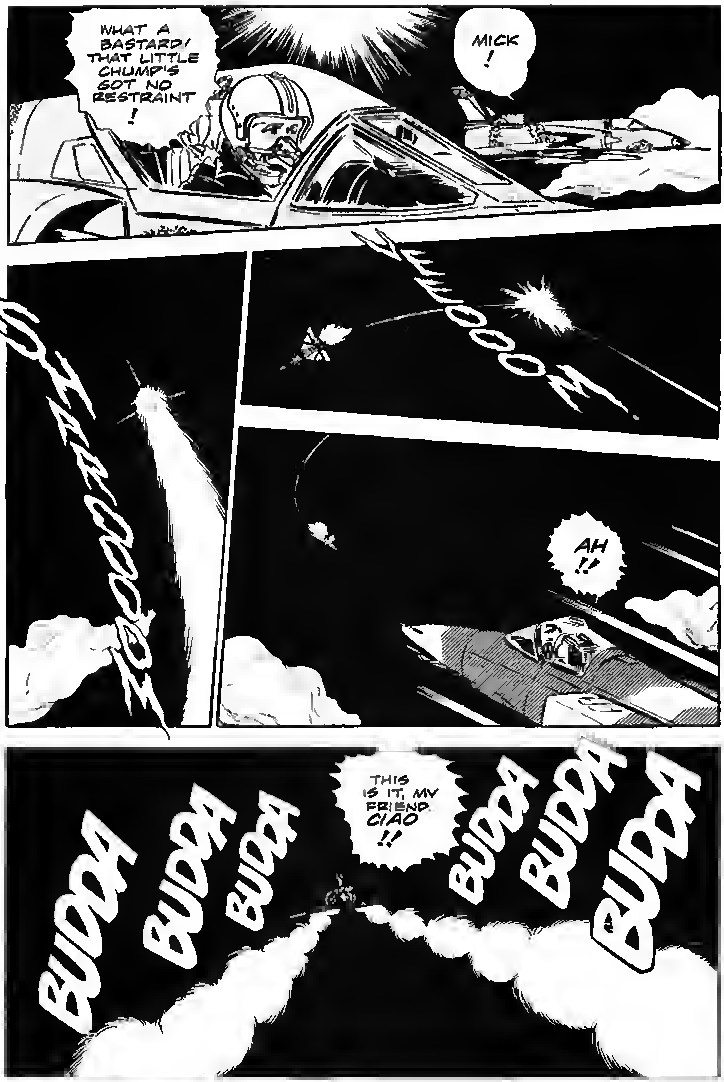

AFTER THIS, THE PLANE WENT INTO A SPIN.
THE CRASH POINT WAS CR-11.
THERE WAS ALSO A CONFIRMATION OF THE CRASH FROM THE GROUND TROOPS.
IT WAS TOO EARLY TO FIRE! YOU WOULD'VE BEEN RIGHT ON THE MARK IF YOU'D WAITED!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU HIT THE PLANE, AS LONG AS IT GETS SHOT DOWN.
BESIDES, SHOW ME AN ENEMY WHO'S GONNA LET YOU WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO SHOOT!
THEY'RE DESPERATE, TOO!
NO MATTER WHERE A PLANE GETS HIT, IT'LL LOSE ITS BALANCE AND CRASH!
YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO HIT THE ENGINE..
HA-- THAT'S JUST YOUR EXCUSE!
.....
.....

ANYWAY... DO YOUR BEST TO SURVIVE OUT THERE. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN COMPETING WITH YOU FOR THE NUMBER OF PLANES SHOT DOWN.
WELL... I THINK I'M GONNA HAVE A BEER BEFORE I HIT THE SACK...
GREG !
YOU SAW THE FILM! I'M A MUCH BETTER PILOT THAN SHIN!
YEAH YOU'RE BETTER ALL RIGHT
YOU'RE BETTER AT FLYING AND STUNTS!
BUT... IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IN COMBAT... IT'S NOT A MATTER OF BEING GOOD OR BAD, IT'S ALL A MATTER OF SURVIVAL!
I CAME BACK ALIVE !
YOU CAME BACK ALIVE TODAY BUT YOU NEVER KNOW ABOUT TOMORROW!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU BECOME NUMBER ONE IN AREA 88...
IF YOU GET KILLED, YOU LOSE EVERYTHING...
. . . . . .

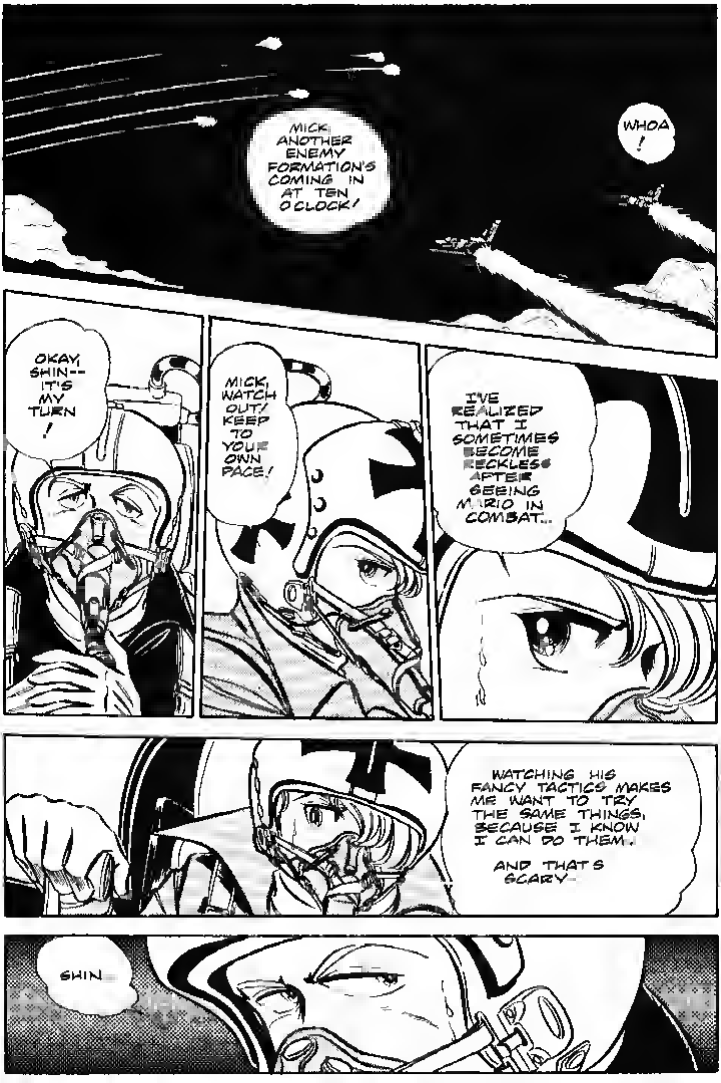
SHAAROOOOM
DOOM
BAKOOM
BLAM!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SIAAH!!

THAT'S MY SECOND PLANE. MY PACE IS A LITTLE SLOW TODAY.
IN THESE DOGFIGHTS, THE WINNER IS DECIDED IN THE FIRST 60 SECONDS OF BATTLE. THOSE WHO REMAIN AFTER THAT ARE JUST BEGGING FOR DEATH.
WHAT ?!

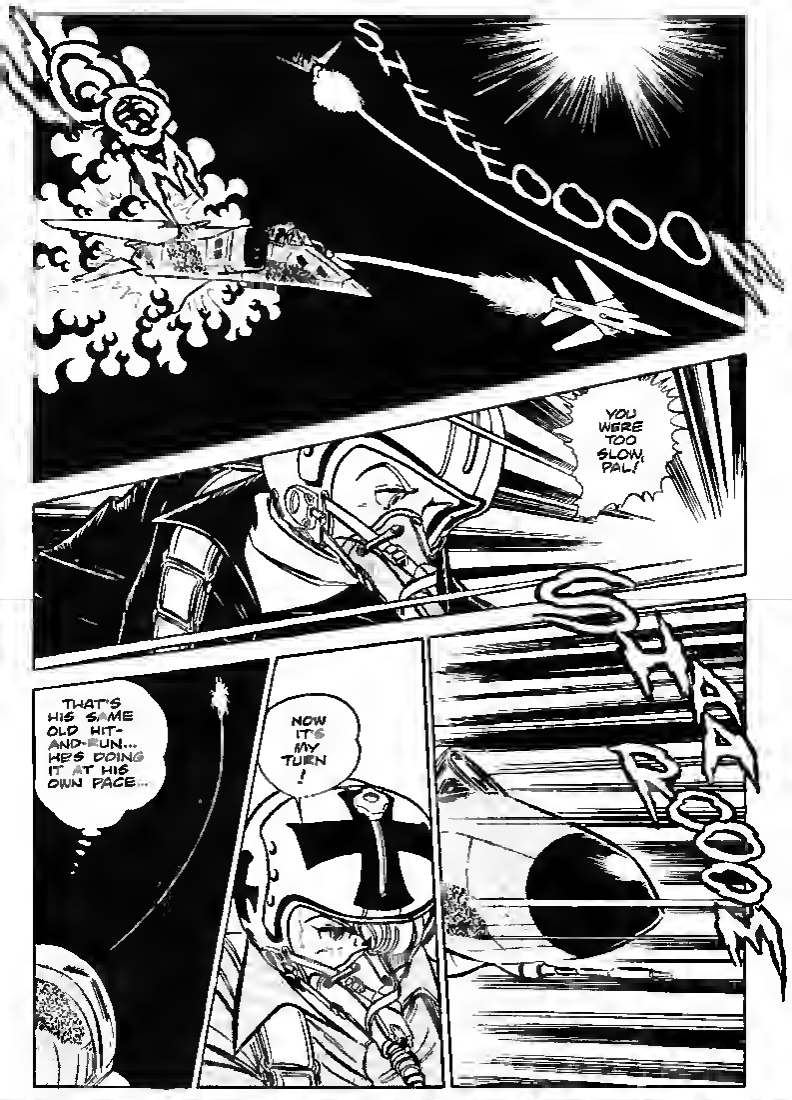
SSSSH
HA, HA, HA! FOLLOW THE LEADER!
BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO ME!!
THAT MUST BE MARIO...

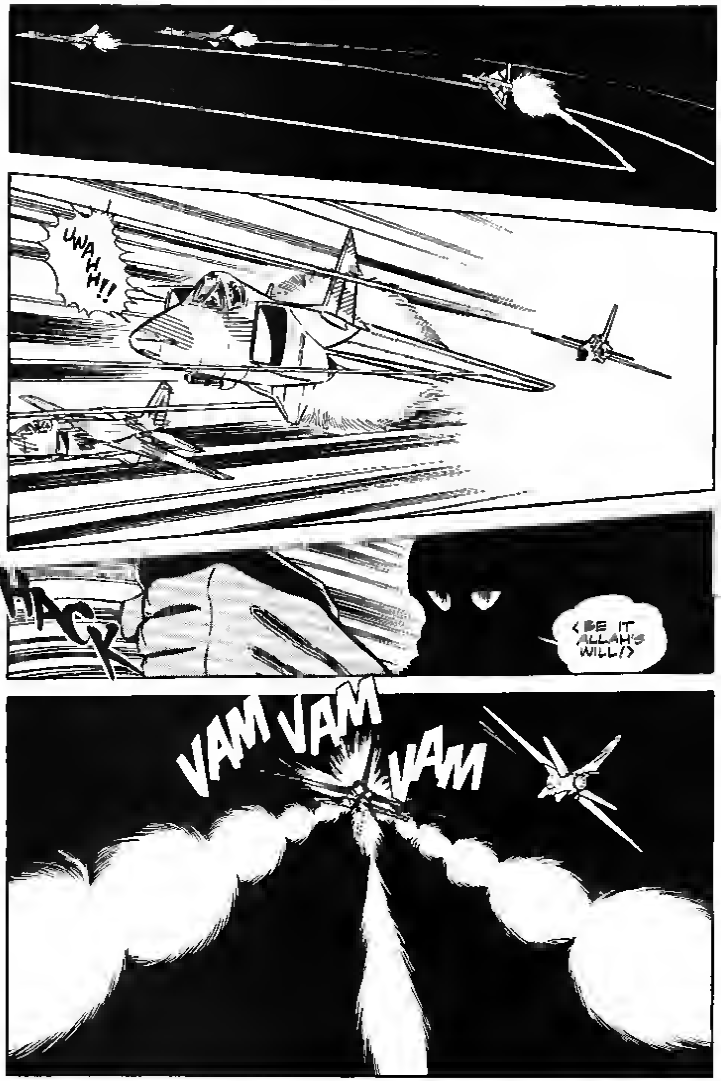

WHAT A BASTARD! THAT LITTLE CHUMP'S GOT NO RESTRAINT !
MICK !
CLATTER
BOOM
AH !!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
THIS IS IT, MY FRIEND CIAO !!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

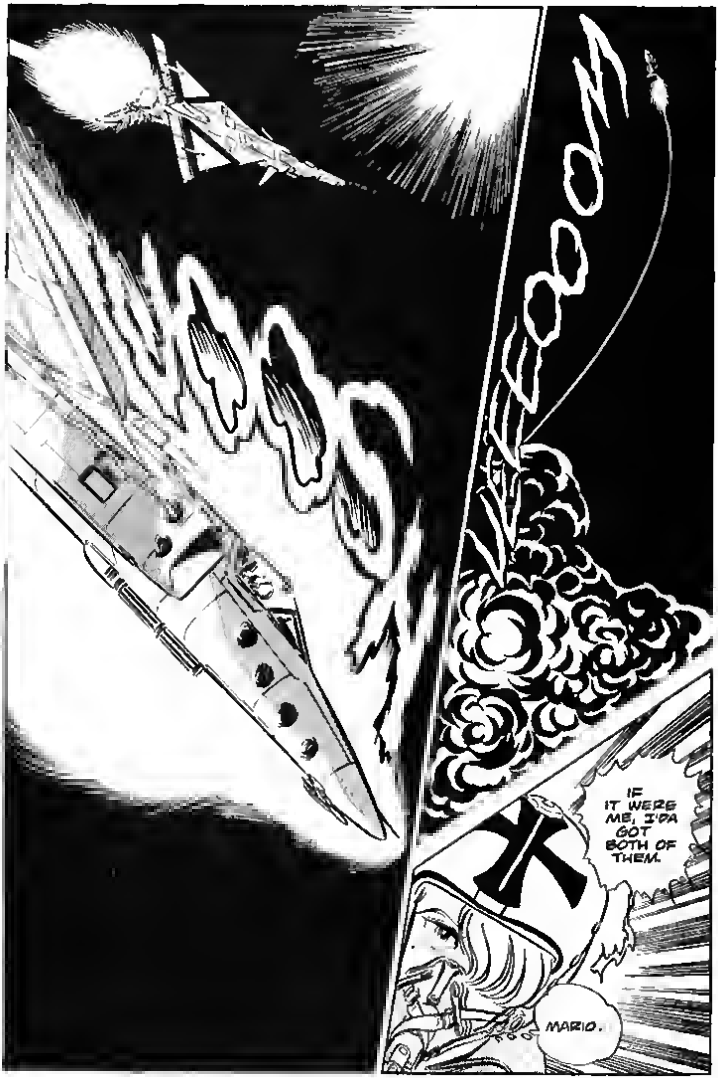
KABOOM
HUH HE SHOT THEM DOWN!
HE'S GOOD
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, SHIN?! THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE IMPRESSED!
HE'LL GET EVEN MORE CARRIED AWAY WITH HIMSELF!
.....


MICK, ANOTHER ENEMY FORMATION'S COMING IN AT TEN O'CLOCK!
WHOA!
OKAY, SHIN-- IT'S MY TURN!
MICK, WATCH OUT! KEEP TO YOUR OWN PACE!
I'VE REALIZED THAT I SOMETIMES BECOME RECKLESS AFTER SEEING MARIO IN COMBAT...
WATCHING HIS FANCY TACTICS MAKES ME WANT TO TRY THE SAME THINGS, BECAUSE I KNOW I CAN DO THEM.
AND THAT'S SCARY.
SHIN...

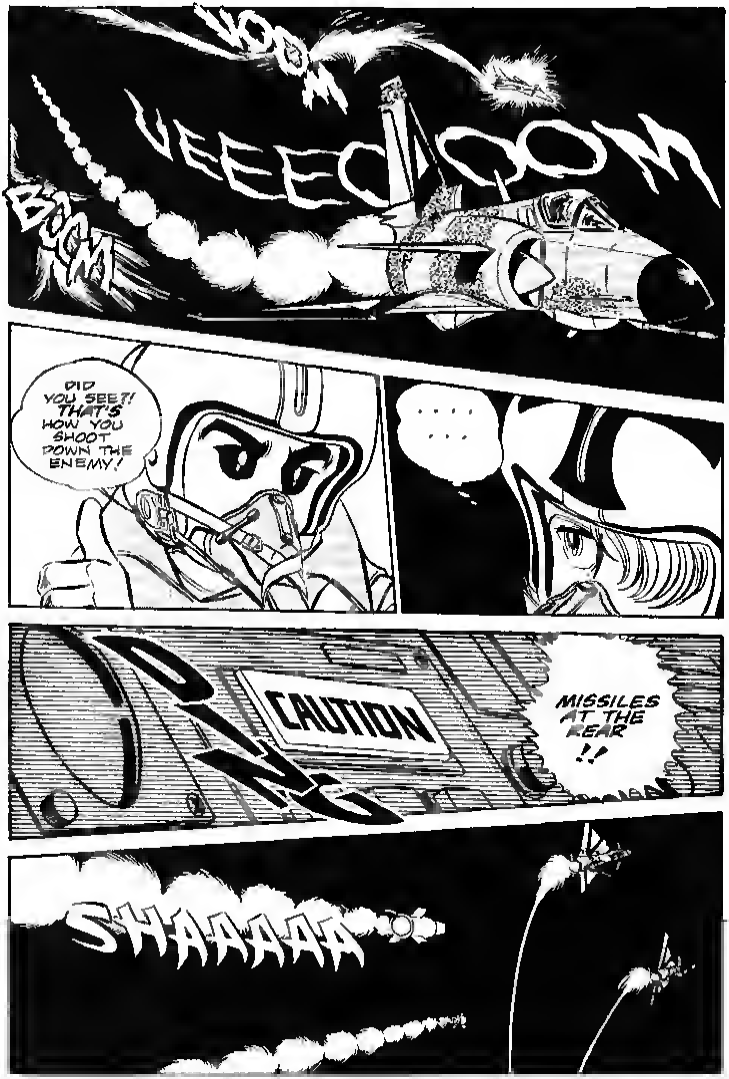
DON'T WORRY! I'M ALWAYS EXCITED!
MICK-- DON'T BE TEMPTED! THE TACTICS YOU'VE BEEN USING TO SURVIVE ARE THE RIGHT ONES...
HEY, GET OUT OF THE WAY!
YAAH
BLAM BLAM BLAM

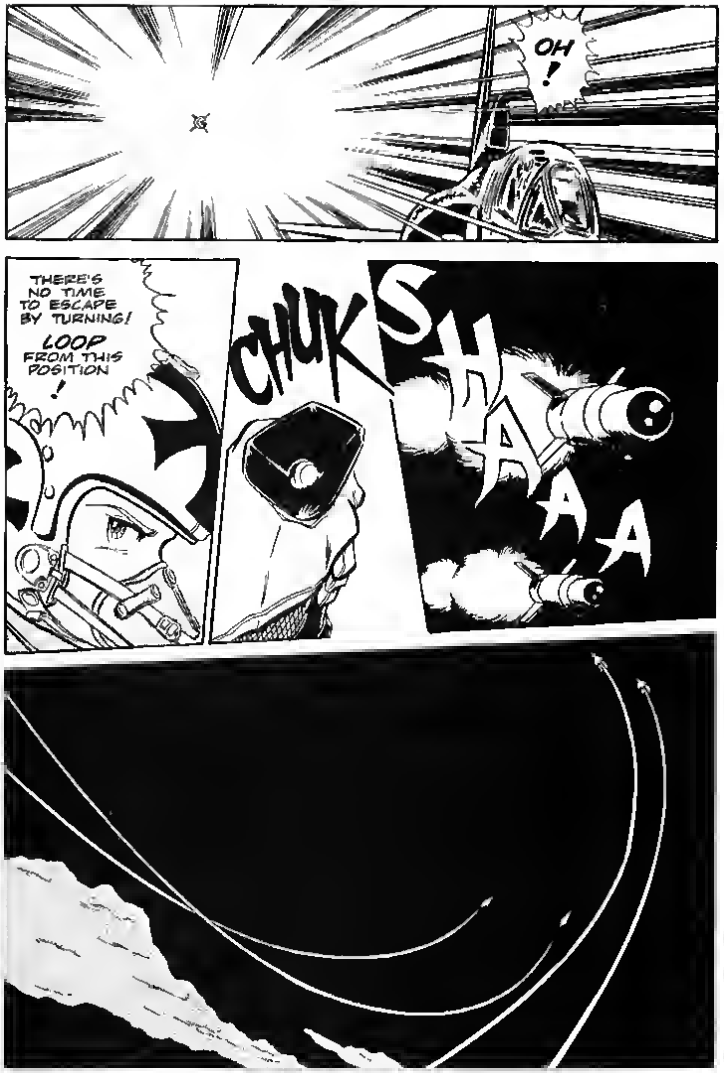

SKEEEEEEE
YOU WERE TOO SLOW, PAL!
SHAAROOM
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
THAT'S HIS SAME OLD HIT-AND-RUN... HE'S DOING IT AT HIS OWN PACE...


UWAH!!
CHACK
<BE IT ALLAH'S WILL!>
VAM VAM VAM

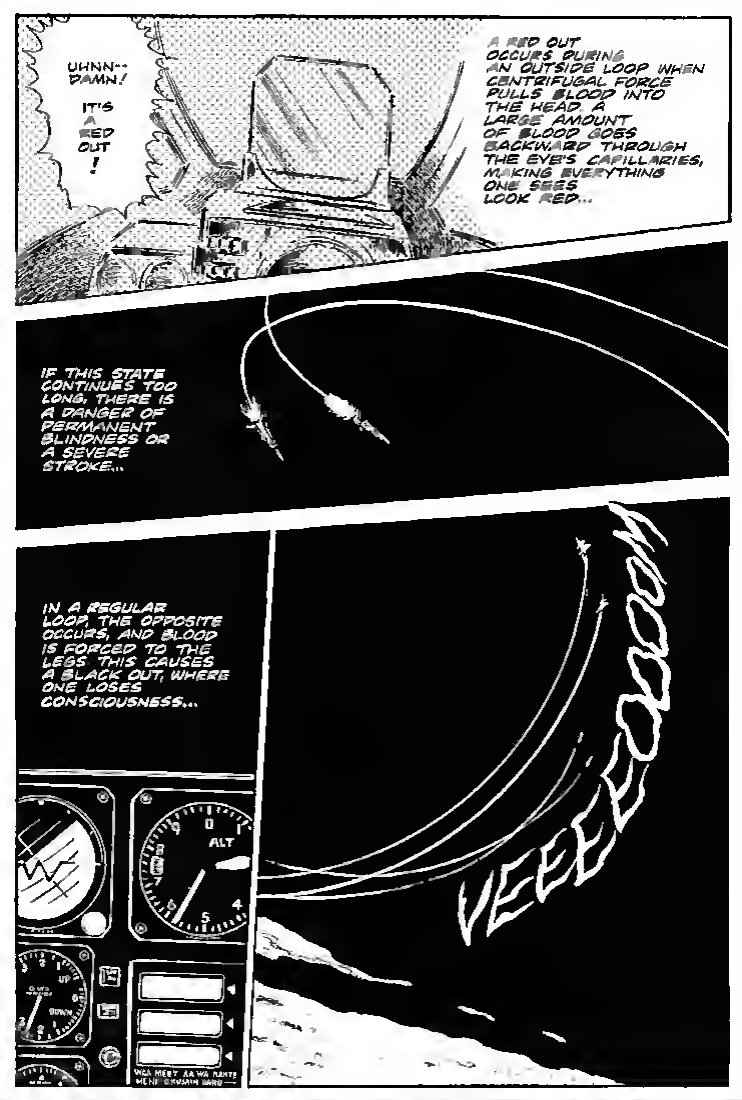

KOOOM
IF IT WERE ME, I'DA GOT BOTH OF THEM.
MARIO.

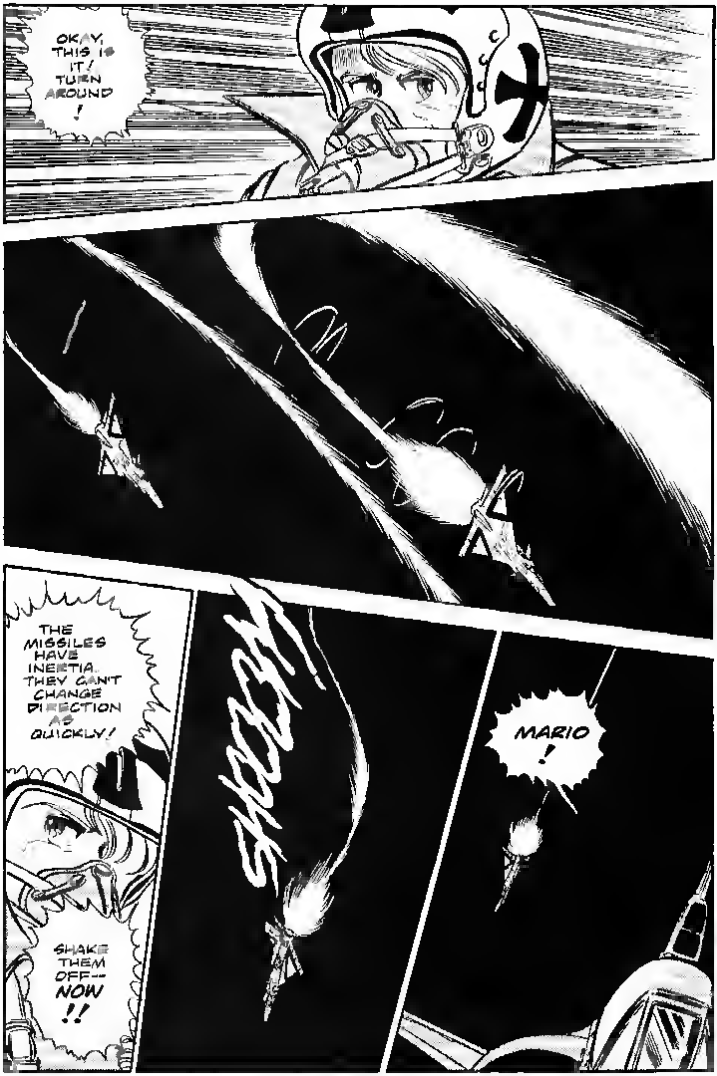
THE WAY YOU SURVIVE HERE IS TO LEAVE THE COMBAT AREA AFTER YOU'VE SHOT DOWN YOUR TARGET!
YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY I'LL BE SHOT DOWN IF I'M TOO SLOW, AREN'T YA ?!
HEH, HEH, HEH..
WELL, I'M TOO GOOD FOR THAT TO HAPPEN !
THESE ENEMY PILOTS ARE A BUNCH OF PANSIES! KILLING THEM IS EASIER THAN SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL!
WHO'S NEXT !?


VOOM
VEEEOOOM
BUOM
DID YOU SEE?! THAT'S HOW YOU SHOOT DOWN THE ENEMY!
. . . .
PIN
CAUTION
MISSILES AT THE REAR !!
SHAAAAA


OH!
THERE'S NO TIME TO ESCAPE BY TURNING!
LOOP FROM THIS POSITION!
CHUK
SHAAAA

I.
I'VE NEVER MADE SUCH A BIG LOOP, EVEN WHEN I WAS DOING STUNTS.
AND THIS IS AN OUTSIDE LOOP.
UHHH--
TOO MANY Gs..!

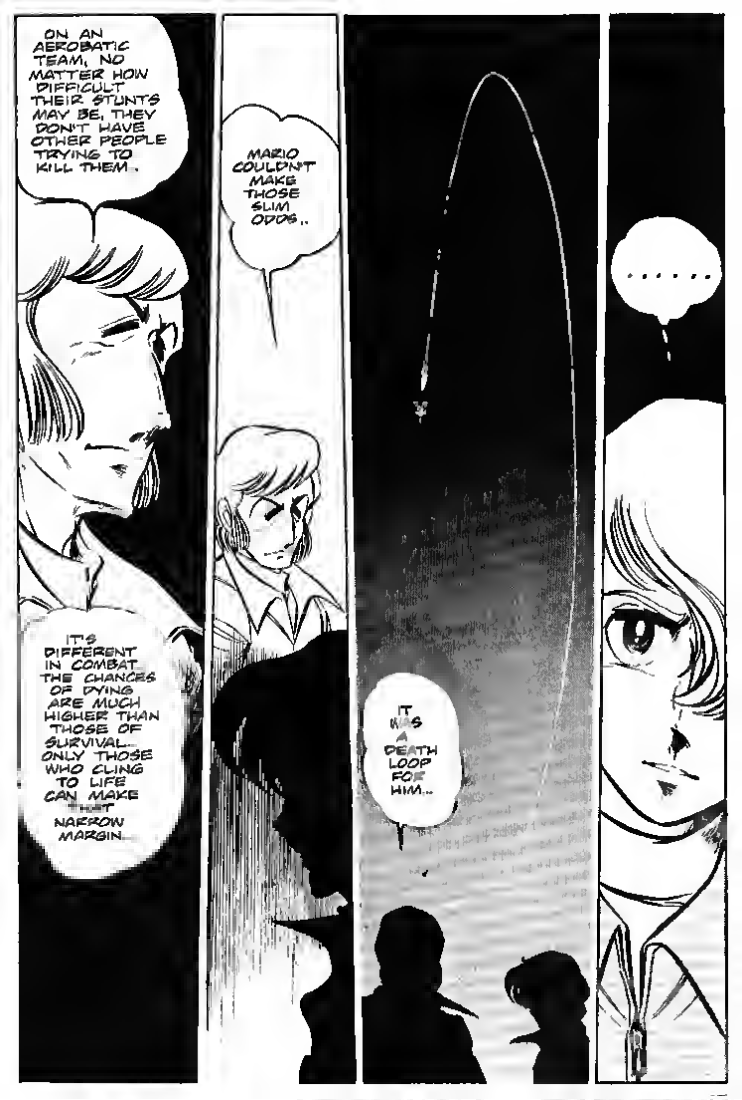

UHNN-- DAMN!
IT'S A RED OUT!
A RED OUT OCCURS DURING AN OUTSIDE LOOP WHEN CENTRIFUGAL FORCE PULLS BLOOD INTO THE HEAD A LARGE AMOUNT OF BLOOD GOES BACKWARD THROUGH THE EYE'S CAPILLARIES, MAKING EVERYTHING ONE SEES LOOK RED...
IF THIS STATE CONTINUES TOO LONG, THERE IS A DANGER OF PERMANENT BLINDNESS OR A SEVERE STROKE...
IN A REGULAR LOOP, THE OPPOSITE OCCURS, AND BLOOD IS FORCED TO THE LEGS. THIS CAUSES A BLACK OUT, WHERE ONE LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS...
VEEEOOOOM
ALT
UP
DOWN


OKAY, THIS IS IT! TURN AROUND!
THE MISSILES HAVE INERTIA. THEY CAN'T CHANGE DIRECTION AS QUICKLY!
SHAKE THEM OFF-- NOW!!
MARIO!

MARIO
!!

...WHY...?!

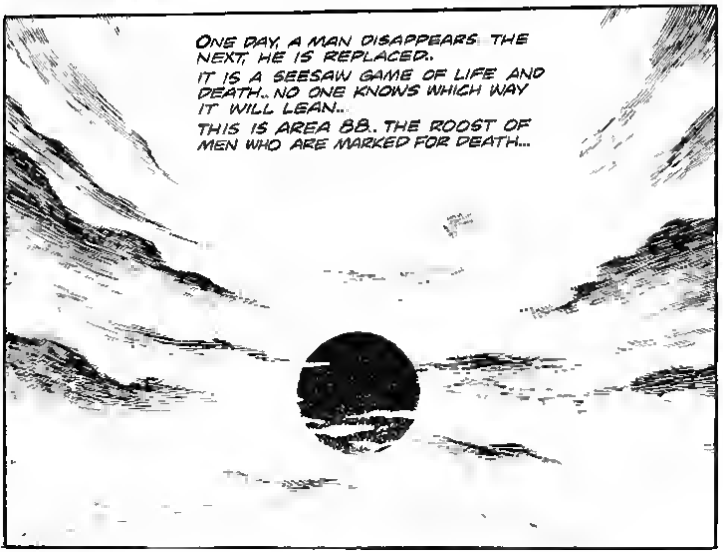
SHIN..
HOOVER..
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.. HE WAS MUCH MORE SKILLED THAN I..
SKILL IN COMBAT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM AEROBATIC SKILL. MOREOVER, ORDINARY COMBAT SKILL ISN'T ENOUGH HERE.


ON AN AEROBATIC TEAM, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THEIR STUNTS MAY BE, THEY DON'T HAVE OTHER PEOPLE TRYING TO KILL THEM..
IT'S DIFFERENT IN COMBAT. THE CHANCES OF DYING ARE MUCH HIGHER THAN THOSE OF SURVIVAL... ONLY THOSE WHO CLING TO LIFE CAN MAKE THAT NARROW MARGIN...
MARIO COULDN'T MAKE THOSE SLIM ODDS..
IT WAS A DEATH LOOP FOR HIM..
.....

DON'T TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY. IN AREA 88, THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO LIVE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE THE SKILL TO SURVIVE.

HOOVER..
WHAT ?

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF LIFE HE HAD IN ITALY


ONE DAY, A MAN DISAPPEARS. THE NEXT, HE IS REPLACED.
IT IS A SEESAW GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH.. NO ONE KNOWS WHICH WAY IT WILL LEAN..
THIS IS AREA 88. THE ROOST OF MEN WHO ARE MARKED FOR DEATH...